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ABSTRACT

The "Lau" decision of 1974, which was related to the education of Chinese-speaking students in San Francisco (California), ushered in new programs, teaching approaches, frameworks, legislation, and government agencies designed to redress fundamental inequities in the educational opportunities available to language minority students. This symposium was held to explore progress and lack of progress in equitable education. A historical overview of the "Lau" decision and its impact was provided by Ling-Chi Wang, Edward A. De Avila, and Edward Steinman. A panel discussion emphasizing the current state of language minority education followed. Summaries are presented of the following symposium strands, most of which were discussed over both days of the conference: (1) "Social Impact" (Kenji Ima) and "Special Response to the Social Impact" (Alicia Sosa); (2) "Legal/Legislative Policy" (John Affeldt); (3) "Teacher Education" (Jack Levy); (4) "The National Standards Movement" (Rosemary Henze); (5) "State Frameworks and Program Design" (Genevieve Lau); and (6) "Instructional Practices" (Stephanie Dalton and Donna Christian). A reprise, "Summing up the "Lau" Decision: Justice Is Never Simple," by James Crawford considers why, two decades after the decision, its promise remains unfulfilled. Participants' recommendations are summarized, and biographical sketches of the presenters are attached. (SLD)

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